



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

62 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2011

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Nice try Bob but we know there's a bow tie under that QSL card!



<p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225</p> <p>Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862</p> <p>Labels and mailing: KB3IV</p> <p>Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>		<p>Directors:</p> <p>W3AOK (11) WA3KIO (11) N3XKE (11) KB2ERL (12) W3STW (12) WU3I (12) ND3B (A)</p>	<p>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p>For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV</p>
<p>Committees</p> <p>Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV</p>		<p>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater 	
	<p>DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE</p>	<p>Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK</p>	<p>Scholarship: W3RM Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: N3MT</p>

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB3IV Ed Masarsky 310 Saw Mill Ln. Horsham PA 19044 kb3iv@comcast.net
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The Prez Sez ...

Hello Phil-Mont,

Enough already with the weather. Yes these are the lazy, hazy days of summer. So what. Would you rather be digging out from a blizzard? Wait long enough and you will get your wish.

Not much to report from the oval office. No, not that one. The repeater has really been holding up well with our new antennas and remote receiving site in Bucks County. There has not been much chatter on "03" during the week, but our nets have been drawing a crowd on Sunday mornings and also on Tuesday evenings with the Digital Net.

This leads me to make an appeal for help with the Sunday morning 2 meter, 70 centimeter and Echolink Net. We have lost two of our regular operators and may lose one more. KB3SJV, John, has not been able to take his usual spot and Andrew, KC2PMW, will be going off to college at the end of August. The third person is me. I have returned to the working world and find that I am frequently scheduled to be at work on Sunday mornings. Besides my usual once a month net duty, I have been filling in for anyone who cannot keep his assigned slot. Please get in touch with me and say yes, I will participate as a net control station. You will come up once every 7 or 8 weeks in the schedule. You will find that running the net is an enjoyable task. Just ask some of our newer members who have stepped up to the plate recently.

The MS-150 event will be taking place in about eight weeks. It is important to make your

commitment to participate right now. All the information you need can be found on our club website and also elsewhere in the Blurb. Take out your equipment and make sure everything is in perfect working order. The most important part of any communication system is the antenna. What are you going to use? If you are using a mobile rig, check it out with the antenna in place just as you will be at the event. If you are using an HT, you might want to consider a higher gain duckie or connect it to a mag mount antenna which you can put on a vehicle while you are standing outside next to it. Don't forget spare batteries and a charger if you are staying overnight in Ocean City. I know that the communications staff is well prepared and will be able to assist you with any radio problems that might come up.

I look forward to seeing many of our members and guests at the next club meeting on September 14th. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

de Ed, KB3IV

Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes

August Birthdays

01 Ralph Germanotta - K3FXR
02 Tom Bohlander - WA3KLR
05 Fred Uebelhoer - KA3IRJ

09 Carolyn Popovic - KA3VLJ

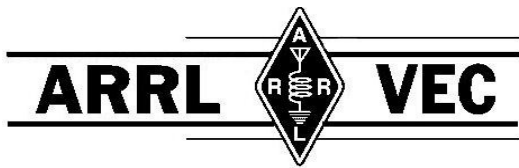
14 Lucille Gargano (XYL N3YGY)
Patricia MacKenzie (XYL W3RED)
15 Art Lester - W3FWI
17 Kitty Newman (XYL KC2FIO)
18 Norma Coupe (XYL WA3BXH)
19 Donna Lynn Larkin - WA1WYQ (XYL KA2FFP)
20 Keiko Simon - KB3SJT

30 Vincent Buono - WA3ADI

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:

- 79 Full Paid Members
- 8 Family Members
- 6 Youth Members
- 2 Honorary Member
- 0 Pending Members



*This month's Thursday evening VE session
is on the 25th*

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

Radio Stores ... 'N'More

By bob Thomas W3NE

DAVID SARNOFF – PART 1**Self-made Radio and TV Visionary**

David Sarnoff was arguably the most powerful, successful leader in the electronics industry during the heyday of America's superiority in innovation and manufacture of consumer and commercial electronics equipment. He rose through the ranks from Morse operator to President of the Radio Corporation of America for 35 years until he retired in 1965. Unlike today's executives, often seen by employees and the public as overpaid, incompetent, self-serving products of university business schools, General Sarnoff garnered the highest respect and loyalty of virtually everyone in the Corporation (as we called ourselves). His success was not easily achieved, however, as we shall see.

The Sarnoff family lived in a remote shetl in the Russian province of Minsk. Their primitive village had no public conveniences, nevertheless, the Czar's tax collectors made regular visits and the Jewish minority was subjected to continual discrimination. Thus in 1900, when he was nine years old, David emigrated with his

family to the promise of the United States. Their first home was a three-room flat on the fourth floor of a tenement in a lower east side Manhattan ghetto. There was one bathroom for the twenty residents on their floor! Still, it was a far better than the place they had left, and young David immediately thrived. He began every day at 4 AM delivering Yiddish newspapers in the tenements then he attended a neighborhood Alliance School where he learned to read English in six months. He worked the rest of the day at a newsstand, saving enough money in four years to buy his own newsstand in Hell's Kitchen at 46th Street and 10th Avenue. David was main financial provider of his family from the time they arrived here because his father was unable to find steady work due to a chronic respiratory disease.

David got a job as messenger delivering telegrams for the Commercial Cable Company, a major telegraph company of the day. It was there that he got his first glimpse of men copying Morse code and he was so attracted to the profession he bought a \$2.00 key and taught himself the code. When he asked for time off to observe the Jewish Holidays and was fired on the spot, but in a few days he got a better position at the American Marconi Telegraph Company. Sarnoff's first job at Marconi was file clerk, where he became acquainted with details of the company's operation from correspondence, including directives from Marconi himself. He had a voracious appetite for knowledge which he satisfied in off hours studying technical subjects at Marconi and New York City libraries. He also had occasional opportunities to talk with operators and to continue on his own to become proficient with code. This initiative was not lost on Management; he gradually was assigned more office responsibilities and occasionally filled-in for Morse operators at shore stations. A big break came when Sr. Marconi arrived in New York and D.S. became acquainted with the great inventor, who was his hero. They had much in common as ambitious immigrants and visions for the future of wireless. Before long David became Marconi's personal messenger, an association that gave him access to company files, and a raise in salary that enabled him to move his family to better accomodations.

As Sarnoff steadily rose in the esteem of his supervisors, he was given more and more responsibility. He became a regular operator at a succession of Marconi shore stations and then a supervisor of one station after another as he consistently increased volume of message traffic and improved station efficiency. He was photographed at one of those assignments, sitting in a pensive mood, key at hand, in a moment that depicts the seriousness of his dedication. The next step upward was a prime

assignment at the Marconi station at the top of the Wannamaker store in Manhattan. It was there, when off duty, that David was able to chat in person with radio enthusiasts and amateur operators who visited the store, learning what they needed and encouraging them in their new field. It also was there that he gained prominence in April 1912, when he remained on duty to handle health and welfare traffic from families and survivors of the *Titanic* disaster. The effectiveness of wireless aboard the rescue ship *Carpathia* (and tragic consequences of closer ships without wireless *not* responding) caused the U.S. Navy to initiate total control of all radio in the United States, a policy that would intimately involve David Sarnoff in the future.

D.S. continued to advance, rising to Chief Inspector in charge of all Marconi gear on ships in New York Harbor. To David it was an opportunity to literally get inside Marconi products. He visited radio rooms of ships where he was able to talk operator-to-operator with the crew to obtain frank assessments of Marconi equipment. He did the same on ships using competitive gear, where he gained the candor of operators as only another operator could. His information was forwarded to the engineering department for improvement of Marconi gear, and to the sales department, where the strengths of Marconi equipment, and weaknesses of competitors could be exploited. By now David Sarnoff was acknowledged as the one person who knew more about Marconi America than anyone else!

Sarnoff and three Marconi engineers visited a Columbia University laboratory in December 1913. They were shown a receiver incorporating a new principle invented by Edwin Armstrong, known as *regeneration*. Sarnoff was awed by its phenomenal sensitivity, which far exceeded that of any currently-available detectors. He and Armstrong immediately struck up a friendship and arranged to take the receiver to the Marconi wireless station at Belmar, NJ. They shivered in a cold hut for two days listening to DX from spark stations around the world like they had never been heard before. David, wild with enthusiasm, tried to impress his superiors with the importance of Armstrong's invention, but the company was having financial difficulties and had always taken a conservative approach toward new technology. Upper management saw no need for haste to adopt the new receiver regardless of its merits.

Meanwhile, developments in amplitude modulation over the next few years enabled transmission of sound with Alexanderson alternators and Paulsen continuous-arc

transmitters. Sarnoff recognized the potential of this new technology when combined with regenerative receivers as the key to broadcasting directly to households. In 1916 he wrote what was to become a landmark memo to Marconi executives describing his ideas for a "Radio Music Box" to bring entertainment and cultural programs to the homes of all Americans. This was no vague suggestion; the memo included realistic estimates of costs, market penetration and realizable profits. However, his memo was ill-timed. War was looming in Europe and the U.S. Navy was again moving to totally control radio in the United States. David received no a reply to his memo so he set his plan aside until there would be more favorable circumstances.

The Secretary of the Navy got his chance to control wireless, including commandeering amateur and commercial stations, when the U.S. entered the war in 1917. German and British-owned wireless installations were confiscated by the Navy. Edwin Armstrong received a commission and was sent on active duty to France. At home, industry leaders were given virtually automatic commissions in the navy to facilitate participation in the war effort but David Sarnoff, then powerful Commercial Manager of the entire Marconi America Company, was ignored by Washington. It was a hurtful anti-Semitic snub to a man compelled to repay his country for the opportunities it had given him.

Momentous effects of war upon the wireless industry included government edicts terminating all patent litigation and a moratorium on issuance of new patents, which would be held by the government for use by any manufacturer for the duration of the war. That policy created a large "patent pool" that was destined to play a pivotal role in postwar reorganization of the radio industry, as we shall see next time.



Jen and Jack and a crazy fishing pole!

Texting in 1900: Insights into the telegraph at Pennypacker Mills

Published: Monday, June 27, 2011

By Michael Berman

Correspondent



A guide shows a young visitor how to use the telegraph at Pennypacker Mills. Photo courtesy of Pennypacker Mills.

One hundred years ago, teenagers didn't have iPhones and the other well-known (and expensive) gadgets of 2011. There wasn't the lingo that our society's adults of tomorrow use to communicate today, such as "LOL" and "BRB." There was, though, technology that gave them a way to "text."

On Sunday, June 26, "Texting in 1900: Messaging at the Train Station" will be on display at Pennypacker Mills in Schwenksville. The exhibit highlights the importance of the telegraph in the early 20th century. Visitors will be able to participate by using devices to send and receive "texts." This time though, they will be using Morse code.

What's true in 2011 was certainly the case in 1900 — the younger generation was more adept at new communication in 1900 than their elders. For one, teenagers are known to have better hand/eye coordination, which was beneficial to them mastering the dits and dahs of Morse code. Therefore, they were able to effectively use the system, sending and receiving "texts" at a fast rate, 20 to 30 words a minute. Teenage boys were the main group hired to operate to send telegrams. This was something that had been realized a few decades prior, during the Civil War.

As Linda Callegari, museum educator at Pennypacker Mills and presenter of the exhibit, explains, "Morse code was used during the Civil War, from the battlefield to the White House. They quickly learned that the adult soldiers couldn't pick up Morse code."

Children picking up on a concept faster than adults is nothing new. It is seen with technology and learning a new language as well, just as those teenagers mastered

Morse code. Even today, it is widely accepted that young children of adult immigrants generally come to understand and speak the English language better than their parents.

One of the prevalent locations that telegraphy was used was in train stations. It was more convenient and faster than using postal service.

"A letter from Philly to Boston might take a couple weeks," said Callegari.

In fact, 63 million telegrams were sent in 1900, 73 million in 1910. It was a quick way to send a brief amount of information.

Samuel Pennypacker, the 23rd governor of Pennsylvania after whom the site is named, governed for four years, 1903-1907, the years the telegraph was in its highest use. He didn't find out about important occurrences through Twitter updates, or receive updates from an "app" on his iPhone, he was alerted by telegram.

"Several historical telegrams were sent to Samuel Pennypacker," said Callegari. "He was informed that he won the election by telegram."

Technology expanded just as it does today; the telephone started to become widespread. Telegraphy wasn't as vital and use started to decrease. Eventually, Western Union bought all of the smaller companies that were so important across the East Coast in that first decade of the 20th century.

"Western Union set up as trains moved west," said Callegari.

If you're looking for somewhere to go this Sunday, head over to Pennypacker Mills. A historic site that gives many "hands-on" aspects in its exhibits to show visitors life 100 years ago, they offer a free tour as well, and there is another exhibit currently on display: "Wind It up & Hear It Play: Mechanical Music of the 19th Century."

"We aim at kids and discover that adults are just as interested," said Callegari. It's a great way to "experience life in the early 1900s."

While at the "Texting" exhibit, compare the methods of 1900 to the technology used now. See how fast and accurate of a "texter" you would have been in 1900 compared to now.

Many thanks to Red, W3RED for the above article

Hi PMRC,

I was happy to have just discovered your website that mentions the old W3TKQ ham station in the Franklin Institute. I was hoping to see a photo of the old Johnson Viking sitting on the big desk in the "Electricity" room (which was to the left off the building's front entrance) but it looks like nobody found a picture of it.

I read your W3TKQ history and found a listing of the volunteer operators in the '50s but a very small piece of that history is missing - me. ;-) I was a paid operator and demonstrator of the ham station one summer during my summer break from school. I'm afraid I'm not absolutely certain whether that summer break was between when I graduated from Jenkintown High School and before I went off to my freshman year at Lafayette College (which was Summer, 1952) or whether it was the summer break of my freshman year, which would have been Summer, 1953. I suspect it was 1952 because I think I was the first operator of the station who was not a club member. Maybe I was hired just to fill in before the long string of volunteers started. Whatever the case, I was thrilled to have landed that "job" and I well remember demonstrating the hobby to the visitors and letting them say "hi" to anyone I happened to contact. Most of the visitors had mild mike fright, but it was clear that they enjoyed the experience of being heard and replied to by name "on the radio" from someone half way across the country.

Of course, I was more thrilled than any young kid could hope for. I got PAID to use a Johnson Viking and a beam on the roof! This was a quantum leap from my humble beginnings with a war surplus ARC-5 and BC-645 and then my big time commercial rigs; a crystal controlled Lettine 240 and then a Viking Ranger *with a VFO!*

The only person who did NOT enjoy the experience was the poor guard who had to spend some time each day standing duty in the room. It was some old guy who hated "all that noise that darned thing makes." Just like my mother used to say. To me, the QRN was just collateral damage leading up to some impressive Q-4, S-7 QSO. I have to admit that the high ceiling and that large room at times created a terrible racket.

On a return visit home, I visited the station many years later after it had been moved upstairs (and doomed to obscurity). The operators told me its days were numbered and I was saddened. I'm glad to see it has

been made immortal on your website.

There's no need to add me as (probably) the first and last ham operator officially employed by the Franklin Institute. I just wanted to add to the history.

After some years' of letting my license lapse, I'm still active here in Oklahoma using my original call, W3TWE.

73,
Phil Caracena



Al and Sam chew the rag



Keiko! Keiko! Over here! Aw rats.

For Sale

Optoelectronics FC-50 frequency counter,
ARRL handbooks 1933 - onward
Kreco 10 meter coaxial vertical antenna,
Antique headphones,
Multimeters,
and old technical books.

Contact Tom Bohlander WA3KLR

Contact Tom Bohlander WA3KLR, 215-536-1331

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